

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2804

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By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to videotaping testimony of children in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Children and Families.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE  
CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CARE AND PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Chapter 18B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 2 inserting after section 6A the following section:—
- 3 Section 6B. The department shall develop a handbook
- 4 explaining in detail the process involved in the protection and care
- 5 of children proceedings including but not be limited to the guide-
- 6 lines and procedures of the department and the legal rights of all
- 7 parties to such proceedings. Such handbook shall be given, at no
- 8 cost, to all parties or the representatives or agents in such pro-
- 9 ceedings at the initial contact.